GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2070
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2005
IT FACILITIES IN RURAL TRIBAL AREAS
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

:-

(a) whether the Government has formulated any comprehensive scheme to provide internet, e-mail and computer facilities in rural and tribal areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a),(b) and (c): Department of Information Technology (DIT) had taken up an initiatives to set up Community Information Centres (CIC`s) in the hilly, far-flung and rural areas of the country to bring the benefits of ICT (Information and Communication Technology) to the people forsocio-economic development of these areas. Under this initiative, DIT has supported 487 CICs at blcok level in the North Eastern States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Megalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim; 135 CICs at block level in the State of Jammu & Kashmir; 41 Vidya Vahini CICs in the Andaman & Nikobar Island and 30 Vidya Vahini CICs at Lakshadweep Island.

Department of Information Technology has prepared draft guidelines to facilitate establishment of Common Services Centres (CSCs) in rural areas across the country. It is proposed to promote these centers through village level entrepreneurs adopting Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode. Such Centres would have flexibility to offer a mix of services (from Government & non- Government including localized services) that may be needed by the local community.